Members Present:
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble, Senate Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, House Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Laura Black
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Mr. Jonathan Ball
Mr. Chris R. Bleak
Mr. Michael E. Christensen

Members Absent:
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Mr. Ric Cantrell
Mr. John M. Schaff

Staff Present:
Mr. Mark J. Allred, IT Manager
Ms. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Bramble called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Sen. Van Tassell was excused from the meeting.

2. Legislative Telephone System

Mr. Allred distributed and presented the "Legislative Phone System," and briefed committee members on the background of the phone system currently in place. Mr. Allred reported that the current voice mail system will be unsupported after May 2011, and encouraged legislators to consider both short and long term options for updating the system in the future.

Committee discussion followed on the functionality and general use of various components of the current system including desk phones, fax machines and blackberries.

Rep. Menlove pointed out that it would be well to increase signal strength to weak spots within the capitol for wireless accessibility rather than putting money into desk phones which are rarely used. She also commented on the stipend offered through the university where she works which allows her to choose her own provider.

Mr. Allred said he would prepare information for the Committee outlining information about support of mobile devices other than Blackberries.

Mr. Christensen indicated that a survey has been completed regarding the satisfaction of blackberry users with the services provided. Mr. Christensen distributed "Blackberry - T-Mobile Survey June 2010" to committee members and stated that results of the survey included comments on coverage, battery power, dropped calls, and other details.

Chair Bramble introduced discussion about trading in fax machines for desktop scanners.

MOTION: Rep. Last moved to eliminate fax machines.

Following committee discussion, Rep. Last withdrew his motion.

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved that the Committee ask staff to prepare a recommendation for discussion in a future meeting to include options for removing and replacing analog fax technology. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bleak was absent for the vote.

Mr. Allred reviewed cost estimates of possible combination scenarios of components for an updated voice mail system, including a discussion of some advantages and disadvantages of outsourcing to the Department of Technology Services (DTS) or issuing a Request for Proposals.

Mr. Ball spoke against the Legislature purchasing its own system.

Mr. Doug Chandler, Telecommunications Manager, DTS, responding to a question, said the judicial branch is transitioning toward their own Voice Override Internet Protocol (VOIP) system, but is currently using mostly DTS.

Chair Bramble asked staff to look into whether the providers for house and senate will change as updates to the telecommunications systems are being considered.

Mr. Allred presented options for VOIP systems including but not limited to fax routing, E911, video conferencing, and disaster recovery features.

The Committee discussed the documentation and access to records of phone calls through the Government Records Access Management Act, and what sort of agreement the Legislature would negotiate if it decided to work through DTS.

Chair Bramble inquired about using ipads, iphones and other mobile devices in our legislative environment.

Due to the additional options and concerns brought up by committee members, a follow-up meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. for further discussion.

3. Legislative Technology Sinking Fund

Mr. Ball noted that the costs of various components of technology costs are currently carried by different office budgets. He suggested consideration of a legislative technology sinking fund which would pool all money appropriated for shared technology costs into one separate budget.

Chair Bramble asked staff for information on using servers maintained by various providers such as Microsoft or Google.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Last moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bleak was absent for the vote.

Chair Bramble adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.